CLAIMS

1) A method of changing the configuration (C) of an automatic machine (1) comprising a display device (5) and a selection device (6); a user selecting a desired end configuration (C2) by means of the selection device (6); and the method being characterized by displaying, by means of the display device (5), an orderly list (14) of the operations to be performed on the automatic machine (1) to convert the automatic machine (1) from a current start configuration (C1) to said desired end configuration (C2).

2) A method as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that said list (14) is arranged according to the sequence in which said operations are performed.

3) A method as claimed in Claim 1, characterized by displaying, together with at least one said operation, the state (16) of at least one respective operating value (VF) in the start configuration (C1), and the state (17) of the same operating value (VF) in the end configuration (C2).

4) A method as claimed in Claim 3, characterized in that said operating value (VF) is a numeric value indicating the setting of an operating member of the automatic machine (1).

5) A method as claimed in Claim 3, characterized in that said operating value (VF) is an identification code of a part of automatic machine (1).

6) A method as claimed in Claim 3, characterized in that, for each configuration (C), the respective states of all said operating values (VF) are memorized in a database (DBC); each said operating value (VF) being associated with a respective said operation to change the operating value (VF); and said list (14) displaying all the operating values (VF) whose respective states differ in the current said start configuration (C1) and the desired said end configuration (C2).

7) A method as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that, in association with at least one said operation, a description (20) is displayed of the operations to be performed to carry out said operation.

8) A method as claimed in Claim 7, characterized in that said description (20) comprises an orderly sequence of elementary operations to be performed to carry out the relative operation.

9) A method as claimed in Claim 8, characterized in that a respective text description (21) is displayed for at least one said elementary operation.

10) A method as claimed in Claim 8, characterized in that a respective photographic image is displayed for at least one said elementary operation.

11) A method as claimed in Claim 8, characterized in that a respective video film is displayed for each said elementary operation.

12) A method as claimed in Claim 11, characterized in that said video film is complete with sound.

13) A method as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that, when said operations shown in said list (14) have all been performed, the new control system operating parameters relative to the desired end configuration (C2) are transferred to the automatic machine (1).

14) A method as claimed in Claim 13, characterized in that, to transfer the new control system operating parameters, an operator must first have confirmed performance of each operation in said list (14).

15) A unit (3) for changing the configuration of an automatic machine (1); the unit (3) comprising selection means (6) whereby a user selects a desired end configuration (C2); and the unit (3) being characterized by comprising display means (5) for displaying an orderly list (14) of the operations to be performed on the machine (1) to convert the machine (1) from a current start configuration (C1) to the desired end configuration (C2).